

Appl. No.: 10/517,243
Reply to Office Action of: 02/09/2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes new Figs. 5 and 6. Support for the added drawings is found in the original drawings as filed and claim 9 as filed.

REMARKS

The examiner did not initial the two foreign references in the Form PTO-1449 returned with the office action. Copies of the two foreign references were mailed with the application when filed. The examiner is requested to return the Form PTO-1449 filed with the application with the two foreign references initialed by the examiner to indicate review of the references by the examiner.

Regarding section 1 of the office action, a new Fig. 5 has been added to overcome the examiner's objection.

Regarding section 2 of the office action, the specification has been amended to overcome the examiner's objections.

Regarding section 3 of the office action, the claims have been amended to overcome the examiner's objections to the claims.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Quaranta (US 6,095,874). Claims 4-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Quaranta (US 6,095,874) in view of Shi et al. (US 2001/0053630 A1) and Heim Mueller (US 6,524,142 B2). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify applicants' claimed invention. In particular, claim 1 claims that the contact terminal comprises a transition part forming a transition zone linking the front part with the rear part, wherein the top has at least one extension leg traversing a longitudinal length of the transition zone. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Quaranta that the end wall halves 20a traverse a longitudinal

length of the transition zone 8 between the rear part 4 and the front part 6. The end walls 20 are merely end walls for the front part 6.

Without applicant's invention, the terminal would lack rigidity in two manners: 1) the square cross-section of the cage can be squeezed to a parallelogram, and 2) there is a weak "transition part" between the "front part" contacting cage and the wire connecting "rear part". Therefore the terminal without applicants' invention can be accidentally folded at this weak part (the transition part). This is especially true in the case of a crimped wire, "wall crimp piece 31" must be folded without interacting with the cage and, therefore, it has to be separated from the cage.

With the invention, rigidity is obtained by the leg 46 making a strong link from the top of the cage to at least the transition part, or better yet directly to the rear part (in this case by-passing the weak part). For this rigidity adding link to be effective, leg 46 should be hard fixed with the transition or rear part (i.e., crimped or welded or another other fixing method).

In the embodiment shown the leg 46 is relatively long because of the overall connector body shape, and because the contact strip 45 is cut from the material behind the side 43 of the cage (see Fig. 2); the rear part with its walls 31 being further cut from material behind the strip 45.

Another way to get some rigidity would have been to have a U shaped transition part. However, with the shape of the contact terminal in the embodiment shown, it was not possible

because there is not enough material for the wings of the U shape. The invention could be implemented in the same way for a welded wire connection as well as for the crimped connection.

The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the dependent claims contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claims 10-20 have been added above to claim the features recited therein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

6/8/2006
Date

Claine F. Mian
Name of Person Making Deposit